

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

APR 06 2006

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:
O'Brien et al.

Serial No.: 09/837,041

Confirmation No.: 9205

Filed: April 18, 2001

For: Process for Data Driven
Application Integration for B2B

Group Art Unit: 3625

Examiner: Fadok, Mark A.

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-8300 to the attention of Examiner Fadok, Mark A., on the date shown below:

April 6, 2006
Date

David M. Magness
David M. Magness

Dear Sir:

04/07/2006 HGUTEMR1 00000034 090465 09837041
01 FC:1402 500.00 DA

APPEAL BRIEF

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 3625 dated July 7, 2005, finally rejecting claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12. The final rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12 is appealed. This Appeal Brief is believed to be timely since facsimile transmitted by the due date of January 7, 2006, as set by mailing a Notice of Appeal on November 7, 2005. Please charge the fee of \$500.00 for filing this brief to Deposit Account No. 09-0465/ROC920000304US1.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Respectfully submitted,



Randol W. Read
Registration No. 43,876
Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Appellant(s)

**PATTERSON &
SHERIDAN, LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

APR 06 2006

3040 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056-6582
TEL 713.623.4844
FAX 713.623.4846

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: April 6, 2006
FILE NO: ROC920000304US1 (IBM2K0304)
TO: MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Examiner Fadok, Mark A.
FAX NO: 1-571-273-8300
FROM: Randol W. Read / David Magness
PAGE(S) with cover: 26

RE:
TITLE: Process for Data Driven Application Integration for B2B
U.S. SERIAL NO.: 09/837,041
FILING DATE: April 18, 2001
INVENTOR(S): O'Brien et al.
EXAMINER: Fadok, Mark A.
GROUP ART UNIT: 3625
CONFIRMATION NO.: 9205

Attached for the above-referenced application please find:

1. RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTIVE APPEAL BRIEF DATED MARCH 6, 2006.
2. APPEAL BRIEF

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

The document accompanying this facsimile transmission contains information from the law firm of Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P. which is confidential or privileged. The information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named on this transmission sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this faxed information is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the original documents at no cost to you.

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
APR 6 2006

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:
O'Brien et al.

Serial No.: 09/837,041

Confirmation No.: 9205

Filed: April 18, 2001

For: Process for Data Driven
Application Integration for B2B

Group Art Unit: 3625

Examiner: Fadok, Mark A.

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-8300 to the attention of Examiner Fadok, Mark A., on the date shown below:

April 6, 2006
Date


David M. Magness

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF
DEFECTIVE APPEAL BRIEF DATED MARCH 6, 2006

Applicants submit this *Response to Notice of Defective Appeal Brief dated March 6, 2006*. Applicants originally filed an Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 3625 dated July 7, 2005, finally rejecting claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12.

In the Examiner's *Notice of Defective Appeal Brief dated March 6, 2006* (hereinafter, *Notice of Defective Appeal Brief*), the Examiner states that a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal is required.

455678_1

Page 1

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

The Examiner first notes that the appeal brief references the US PgPub and should instead reference the filed specification. The revised appeal brief, filed herewith, includes appropriate correction. The Examiner also requests that Applicants describe any amendments to cited paragraphs. The revised appeal brief, filed herewith, includes appropriate correction.

The Examiner further states that with respect to the language "wherein the request ...mapped to the transformed format", the cited paragraph has no reference to mapping and there is no indication of where the request is received from. The cited paragraph states "The back-end flow manager 408 is configured to map..." and accordingly does reference mapping. With respect to where the request is received from, the revised appeal brief, filed herewith, includes appropriate correction.

The Examiner further requests detailed description of the term produce, of items in the drawings, of the term metadata instances, of the term "call", of whether the flow manager includes runtime metadata, and how the process development tool communicates with the runtime metadata. In response, Applicants note that 37 CFR Sec. 41.37 only refers to a **"Summary of Claimed Subject Matter"** and requests only a *"concise explanation"* of the subject matter defined in each of the involved pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that a detailed discussion of the contents of the specification as requested by the Examiner is not required by 37 CFR Sec. 41.37. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the revised appeal brief, filed herewith is compliant with 37 CFR Sec. 41.37 and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief.

The Examiner further requests the addition of an evidence appendix. The revised appeal brief, filed herewith, includes appropriate correction.

Accordingly, having addressed all issues raised by the Examiner, Applicants submit that the revised appeal brief, filed herewith is compliant with 37 CFR Sec. 41.37 and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Identification Page.....	1
2.	Table of Contents	2
3.	Real Party in Interest	3
4.	Related Appeals and Interferences	4
5.	Status of Claims	5
6.	Status of Amendments	6
7.	Summary of Claimed Subject Matter	7
8.	Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal	8
9.	Arguments	9
10.	Conclusion	16
11.	Claims Appendix	17
12.	Evidence Appendix	21
13.	Related Proceedings Appendix	22

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Real Party in Interest

The present application has been assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-38 were originally presented in the application. Claims 5-7 and 13-17 have been withdrawn without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Status of Amendments

All claim amendments have been entered by the Examiner. No amendments to the claims were proposed after the final rejection.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claimed embodiments of the invention (See, e.g., Claim 1) provide a system for handling eCommerce requests. See, e.g., Pg. 10, Para. 0042 (paragraph 0042 was previously amended in Applicant's *Response to Office Action dated January 13, 2005*, to change instances of reference numeral 308 to reference numeral 404); Fig. 3, Items 300, 302, 304, 306. The system includes at least one application configured to process a request in a transformed format (See, e.g., Pgs. 12-13, Para. 0049, 0051-0052; Fig. 4, Item 412), wherein the request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in an original format and mapped to the transformed format (See, e.g., Pg. 10, Para. 0042; Pg. 12, Para. 0049; Fig. 3, Item 302; Fig. 4, Items 408, 422). The system also includes at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format (See, e.g., Pg. 24, Para. 0069-0070; Pg. 36, Para. 0090; Fig. 4, Items 415, 420, 418, 416, 422; 413A), wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol (See, e.g., Pgs. 11-12, Para. 0045, 0049; Pgs. 35-36, Para. 0089-0090; Fig. 4, Items 302, 304, 408, 422; Fig. 7, Item 700). The system further includes a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application. (See, e.g., Pg. 12, Para. 0049; Pg. 14, Para. 0057; Fig. 4, Item 408).

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Meltzer et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,125,391, hereinafter *Meltzer*).

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

ARGUMENTS

Anticipation of claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12 by *Meltzer*.

The Applicable Law

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The Examiner's Argument

The Examiner states that *Meltzer* discloses a system for handling eCommerce requests, comprising: (a) at least one application configured to process a request in a transformed format at Figure 4, and wherein the request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in an original format and mapped to the transformed format at Figure 9. See *Final Office Action dated July 7, 2005* (hereinafter *Final Office Action*), Pg. 3, Para. 4 to Pg. 4, Para. 1. The Examiner also states that *Meltzer* teaches (b) at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format at Figure 9, and wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol at Col. 32, Lines 12-55. *Final Office Action*, Pg. 4, Para. 2. The Examiner further states that *Meltzer* teaches (c) a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application at Figure 13. *Final Office Action*, Pg. 4, Para. 3.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

The Cited Reference

Meltzer discloses a business interface definition (BID) which is posted on the Internet and describes to potential trading partners the services a company offers and the documents to use when communicating with such services. See *Meltzer, Abstract*.

Figure 4, cited by the Examiner, illustrates a process of receiving and processing an incoming document for the system of *Meltzer*. See *Meltzer*, Col. 26, Lines 18-19. When the document is received, the document type is identified (Item 401), the document is parsed (Item 402), and the document is translated to the format of the host (Item 403). See *Meltzer*, Figure 4, Items 401, 402, 403; Col. 26, Lines 18-29. The document is then passed to a host transaction front end (Item 404) and processes which receive elements of the document are executed and produce an output (Item 405). See *Meltzer*, Figure 4, Items 404, 405; Col. 26, Lines 18-29.

Figure 9, cited by the Examiner, illustrates the process of building a BID. See *Meltzer*, Figure 9; Col. 30, Lines 31-32. As part of the process depicted in Figure 9, translators are created for document to host mappings using a compiler. See *Meltzer*, Figure 9, Item 905; Col. 30, Lines 45-47; Col. 25, Lines 34-39.

Col. 32, Lines 12-55, cited by the Examiner, describe the Common Business Library (CBL) which is used to design applications. See *Meltzer*, Col. 31, Lines 35-40; Col. 32, Lines 3-4. The CBL creates a source from which almost all of the pieces of a system can be generated by a compiler. See *Meltzer*, Col. 32, lines 12-14.

Figure 13, cited by the Examiner, illustrates the process of registering participants at a market maker node in *Meltzer*. See *Meltzer*, Figure 13; Col. 8, Lines 62-64. A market participant document is accepted at a network interface (Item 1300), stored (Item 1301), parsed (Item 1302), and translated into the format of the host (Item 1303). See *Meltzer*, Figure 13, Items 1300-1303; Col. 83, Lines 45-67. After the document is translated, the document is passed to a router service (Item 1304) which includes a listener which identifies the registration service as the destination of the document (Item 1305). See *Meltzer*, Figure 13, Items 1304-1305; Col. 83, Lines 45-67.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Applicants' Response to the Examiner's Argument

In this case, *Meltzer* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim". For example, *Meltzer* does not disclose "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol". The Examiner argues that *Meltzer* discloses "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format" in Figure 9 and "metadata compris[ing] a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol" at Col. 32, Lines 12-55. *Final Office Action*, Pg. 4, Paras. 1-2.

The Examiner appears to suggest that the BID built by the process in Figure 9 (See *Meltzer*, Col. 30, Line 31) corresponds to the claimed "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format" and that Common Business Library (CBL) modules and Schema document type definitions (DTDs) in the cited section (See *Meltzer*, Col. 32, Lines 12-55) correspond to the produced "metadata compris[ing] a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol".

However, Applicants submit that the cited CBL modules and DTDs are not "metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format" because the CBL modules and DTDs do not describe a "request in a transformed format" and furthermore, the cited section of *Meltzer* does not describe that the BID is "configured to produce" the cited CBL modules and DTDs. See *Meltzer*, Col. 32, Lines 12-55.

The section cited by Examiner shows a Schema DTD (*Meltzer*, Col. 32, Lines 45-55) as well as an instance of a "datetime" module (*Meltzer*, Col. 32, Lines 25-35) defined by the Schema. Both the depicted Schema and the "datetime" module are stored in the CBL repository. *Meltzer*, Col. 32, Lines 12-5. The CBL repository consists

of *information models* for generic business concepts including business description primitives like companies, services, and products; business forms like catalogs, purchase orders, and invoices; and standard measurements, date and time, location, and classification codes. *Meltzer*, Col. 31, Lines 41-58. The DTD is the formal specification or grammar for *documents of a given type*; it describes the elements, their attributes, and the order in which they must appear. *Meltzer*, Col. 31, Lines 26-28.

As evidenced by the emphasized words ("information models" and "documents of a given type"), the cited documents merely describe business documents (e.g., forms). The business documents specify appropriate documents which may be used in a system such as that of *Meltzer*. Thus, the documents in the cited section do not describe "metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format" because the cited section and documents do not relate to "a request in a transformed format".

Furthermore, as stated above, both the depicted Schema and the "datetime" module are stored in the CBL repository. *Meltzer*, Col. 32, Lines 12-5. The CBL repository is a common library used by developers to implement industry messaging standards and conventions (thus, the name, "Common Business Library"). See *Meltzer*, Col. 31, Lines 41-55. Thus, the contents of the CBL, cited by the Examiner, are in no way produced from the BID. See *id.* Accordingly, the cited sections do not describe "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol."

Meltzer also fails to disclose a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application. As claimed, the metadata defines a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol. The Examiner appears to suggest that a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the

original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application is described in Figure 13. *Final Office Action*, Pg. 4, Para. 3. Applicant notes that the Examiner has not particularly identified any specific item in Figure 13 as a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application. *Final Office Action*, Pg. 4, Para. 3. However, Applicant presumes that the Examiner believes that translating the market participant document (Item 1303) and passing the document to the router service (Item 1304) corresponds to a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application is described in Figure 13.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection errs in at least two respects. First, the translation described in *Meltzer* is performed using a compiled translator. See *Meltzer*, Figure 4, Item 403; Figure 9, Item 905; Col. 26, Lines 25-30; Col. 30, Lines 45-47; Col. 25, Lines 34-39. *Meltzer* does not describe that the translator utilizes "metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol" to perform such translation. See *id.* Thus, *Meltzer* does not describe "a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format".

Second, the translator in *Meltzer* does not call an application. Instead, the documents, after translation from XML logic structures into JAVA objects, are routed to processes in response to the events indicated by a parser and the translator. See *Meltzer*, Col. 26, Lines 25-33. An event listener listens for the event object. See *Meltzer*, Col. 26, Lines 50-51. The listener then handles the event object. See *Meltzer*, Col. 25, Lines 63-64. Applicants submit that passing JAVA objects as events to a listener is not calling an application because the listener is already being executed when the JAVA object is received and treated as an event. See *Meltzer*, Col. 26, Lines 50-51; Col. 25, Lines 63-64. Thus, *Meltzer* does not describe "a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format".

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Response to Applicants' Arguments

In the Examiner's *Final Office Action*, Examiner provides a response to Applicants' arguments. See *Final Office Action*, Pg. 6, Paras. 1-3.

In response to Applicants' argument that *Meltzer* does not teach "at least one specification document configured to produce meta data defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format," the Examiner directs the Applicants' attention to *Meltzer* at Fig. 15 item 1506, "which [the Examiner argues] shows the relationship between the host and source through a mapping process. See *id.* Item 1506 in Figure 15 depicts a translation table.

First, Applicants note that the cited translation table 1506 is not "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol." Instead, the translation table "is used to support the translation from non-XML form into XML form." *Meltzer*, Col. 84, Lines 32-33.

The Examiner does not specifically state which portion of "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol" the cited translation table 1506 is supposed to disclose. See *Final Office Action*, Pg. 6, Paras. 1-3. If Examiner is suggesting that the translation table is the "at least one specification document" described in Applicants' claim, then the cited section does not describe that the translation table 1506 "is configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format." If Examiner is suggesting that the translation table 1506 is

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

"metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format," then the cited section does not describe "at least one specification document configured to produce" the translation table 1506. Accordingly, the cited portion of *Meltzer* does not describe "at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol."

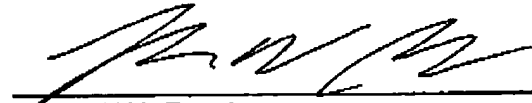
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

CONCLUSION

The Examiner errs in finding that claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-12 are anticipated by *Meltzer* under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Randol W. Read
Registration No. 43,876
Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Appellant(s)

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A system for handling eCommerce requests, comprising:
 - (a) at least one application configured to process a request in a transformed format, wherein the request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in an original format and mapped to the transformed format;
 - (b) at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol; and
 - (c) a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the data of the request in the original format comprises fields and wherein the metadata maps the fields to input fields of the at least one application.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the request is a purchase order and the data comprises fields of the purchase order.
5. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, further comprising a front-end gateway in communication with the flow manager via a transport mechanism and configured to receive requests from the plurality of requesting entities.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

6. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 5, wherein the front-end gateway is configured to translate the request into a protocol understandable by the flow manager.
7. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 6, wherein the protocol understandable to the flow manager is XML.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the original format comprises at least one of cXML, mXML, xCBL, OCI, and ebXML.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one specification document comprises at least one of:
- message formatting rules comprising definitional data and configured to define an association between the definitional data and the data of the request in the original format;
 - an access method configured to define an interface to the at least one application; and
 - a process flow model configured to associate the message formatting rules and the access method instance and comprising mapping rules configured to map input fields of the request in the original format to input fields of the at least one application.
10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the association is between a first plurality of fields of the definitional data and a second plurality of fields of the data of the request in the original format.
11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein each access method is configured to support applications of a particular application type.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the particular application type comprises at least one of program calls, JAVA programs, and queue applications.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one specification document comprises:

message formatting rules comprising definitional data and configured to define an association between the definitional data and the data of the request in the original format;

an access method configured to define an interface to the appropriate one of the plurality of applications; and

a process flow model configured to associate the message formatting rules and the access method instance and comprising mapping rules configured to map input fields of the request in the original format to input fields of the appropriate one of the plurality of applications.

14. (Withdrawn) A system for handling eCommerce requests, comprising:

(a) a plurality of applications each configured to process requests in a respective, transformed format, wherein the respective transformed formats are different from one another, wherein each request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in an original format and mapped to one of the respective transformed formats;

(b) at least one specification document for each respective, transformed format configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of a request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format; and

(c) a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call an appropriate one of the plurality of applications according to the transformed format.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, wherein the data of the request in the original format comprises fields and wherein the metadata maps the fields to input fields of an appropriate one of the plurality of applications.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one specification document comprises:

message formatting rules comprising definitional data and configured to define an association between the definitional data and the data of the request in the original format;

an access method configured to define an interface to an appropriate one of the plurality of applications, dependent on the request; and

a process flow model configured to associate the message formatting rules and the access method instance and comprising mapping rules configured to map input fields of the request in the original format to input fields of the appropriate one of the plurality of applications.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000304US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0304

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

No copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in a related appeal or interference are included as there have been no decisions by the court or the Board in a related appeal or interference.